



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 393

February Session, 2002

Substitute Senate Bill No. 102

Senate, April 9, 2002

The Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding reported through SEN. LOONEY of the 11th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REQUIRING THE ISSUANCE OF UNITED WE STAND COMMEMORATIVE NUMBER PLATES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) (a) On and after January 1,
2 2003, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall issue United We Stand
3 commemorative number plates of a design to enhance public solidarity
4 following the acts of terrorism committed on September 11, 2001. Such
5 plates shall bear the words "United We Stand" and the image of the
6 American flag. Said design may be determined by a contest
7 coordinated by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. No use shall be
8 made of such plates except as official registration marker plates.

9 (b) A fee of fifty dollars shall be charged for United We Stand
10 commemorative number plates, in addition to the regular fee or fees
11 prescribed for the registration of a motor vehicle. Fifteen dollars of
12 such fee shall be deposited in an account controlled by the Department

13 of Motor Vehicles to be used for the cost of producing, issuing,
14 renewing and replacing such number plates. No additional fee shall be
15 charged in connection with the renewal of such number plates. No
16 transfer fee shall be charged for the transfer of an existing registration
17 to or from a registration with United We Stand commemorative
18 number plates. Such number plates shall have letters and numbers
19 selected by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. The Commissioner of
20 Motor Vehicles may establish a higher fee for: (1) Number plates which
21 contain the numbers and letters from a previously issued number
22 plate; (2) number plates which contain letters in place of numbers as
23 authorized by section 14-49 of the general statutes, in addition to the
24 fee or fees prescribed for registration under said section; and (3)
25 number plates which are low number plates issued in accordance with
26 section 14-160 of the general statutes, in addition to the fee or fees
27 prescribed for registration under said section. All fees established and
28 collected pursuant to this section, except moneys designated for
29 administrative costs of the Department of Motor Vehicles, shall be
30 deposited in the United We Stand commemorative account established
31 pursuant to section 2 of this act.

32 (c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in
33 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to
34 establish standards and procedures for the issuance, renewal and
35 replacement of United We Stand commemorative number plates.

36 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) (a) There is established an
37 account to be known as the "United We Stand commemorative
38 account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the
39 General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys required by law
40 to be deposited in the account.

41 (b) Fifty per cent of the moneys in said account shall be distributed
42 quarterly to the United States Department of State Rewards for Justice
43 program and used solely to apprehend terrorists and bring them to
44 justice and fifty per cent shall be expended by the Secretary of the
45 Office of Policy and Management for the purposes of providing

46 financial support and assistance to the former spouses and dependents
47 of persons killed as a result of the acts of terrorism committed on
48 September 11, 2001.

49 (c) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may
50 receive private donations to said account and any such receipts shall
51 be deposited in said account.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2002</i>

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

FIN

FIN *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Fund-Type	Agency Affected	Current FY \$	FY 03 \$	FY 04 \$
TF - Off Setting Costs	Motor Vehicle Dept.	-	Offsetting Costs	Offsetting Costs
GF - Revenue Gain	Office of Policy and Management	-	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

Note: TF=Transportation Fund; GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to issue a commemorative license plate, beginning on January 1, 2003, with the words "United We Stand" and the image of an American Flag. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may coordinate a contest for determining the actual plate design and may adopt regulations to implement the program.

Commemorative Plate Program

The bill requires a \$50 fee for the commemorative plates in addition to the registration fees. The DMV may also collect additional fees, as it does for other types of license plates. The bill also authorizes the DMV to retain \$15 of each fee to cover the administrative costs associated with the program. (This figure includes costs per set to Correctional Industries, and costs for postage, envelopes, forms, etc.). Thus, any costs incurred by the DMV as the result of this program will be offset by fees collected from the special plate program.

Moreover, it is anticipated that fees charged for this plate will mirror

the fees charged for the Long Island Sound plate. Those fees are as follows:

Fee	Type of Plate
\$ 50	Off the Shelf Plate
\$ 70	Remake of Current Marker Plate
\$135	New Issue Vanity Plate

United We Stand Commemorative Account

The bill establishes a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund to be known as the “United We Stand Commemorative Account”. All plate proceeds, except the fees retained by the DMV, are to be deposited in this account.¹ Fifty per cent (50%) of the proceeds are to be distributed to the U.S. Department of State’s “Rewards for Justice” program. The remaining 50% must be spent by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to provide financial support and assistance to family members killed in the September 11th terrorist attacks.

Since the number of requests for the special plate under each of the categories listed above is unknown, the revenue to be deposited in the special, nonlapsing account within the General Fund is indeterminate.

Currently, the DMV issues approximately 50 different special marker plates. Below is a random sampling of the most to the least successful special plates issued by the department in FY 01.

¹ The bill also authorizes OPM to receive private donations to be deposited in the “United We Stand” account.

	No. of Plates	Revenue
Long Island Sound	7,500	\$407,000
Caring for Pets	1,138	\$50,000
Keeps Kids Safe	533	\$32,000
Amistad	214	\$8,200
Special Olympics	2	\$100
U.S. Coast Guard	1	\$50

It is anticipated that OPM can administer this program within existing budgetary resources.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 102

**AN ACT REQUIRING THE ISSUANCE OF UNITED WE STAND
COMMEMORATIVE NUMBER PLATES****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), beginning January 1, 2003, to issue a commemorative license plate with a design that enhances public solidarity following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The plates must bear the words "United We Stand" and the image of an American flag. The motor vehicles commissioner may coordinate a contest for determining the actual plate design.

The bill requires a \$50 fee for the commemorative plates in addition to any normally required registration fees. It creates a special non-lapsing General Fund account for fees collected from the plates. But it authorizes DMV to retain \$15 of the fee for administrative costs associated with the plate program. Also, DMV may collect additional fees, as it does by law for other types of license plates, for number plates that contain alphanumeric characters from previously issued plates, low-number plates (1-10,000 for passenger vehicles), and vanity plates.

The bill requires 50% of the fees transferred to the special account to be distributed quarterly to the U.S. Department of State's "Rewards for Justice" program and used solely to apprehend terrorists and bring them to justice. The remaining money in the special account must be spent by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for financial support and assistance to surviving spouses and dependents of those killed as a result of the September 11 attacks.

The DMV commissioner must adopt regulations for implementing the plate program. The bill also authorizes OPM to receive private donations for the "United We Stand" account.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2002

BACKGROUND

Rewards for Justice Program

The Rewards for Justice Program was established by federal law in 1984. It is administered by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security. The U.S. secretary of state is authorized to offer rewards of up to \$5 million for information that prevents or favorably resolves acts of international terrorism against U.S. citizens or property. The USA Patriot Act of 2001 authorizes the secretary to offer awards of more than \$5 million if he determines they are necessary to combat terrorism or defend the United States against terrorist acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 28 Nay 0

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 43 Nay 0